

July 6, 2004 09:24 PM

Chris Hollinger

625 Commerce St. #10, ♦ Tacoma, WA 98402

Dr. Julie Gerberding

Subject: Oppose New CDC Regulations

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

I urge you to reject the harmful proposed regulations published on June 16 in the Federal Register. In place of effective, disease-preventing safe-sex education, the new regulations will promote failed programs that denounce condom use, while teaching abstinence as the only way to prevent the spread of AIDS.

I am very concerned about the ethics of this proposal for any person who has committed their professional life to providing service and care to people. Each day I enter my work with the oath to myself and to all with whom I come in contact "to do no harm". This is very important to me as is keeping up to date with the newest research, treatments, resources, etc. in order to provide the best quality service I am able to do. To be mandated to follow the proposed new regulations is in my view "to do harm" because I would be withholding the knowledge that has saved lives, not caused death. Condom use does no harm. Learning how to use condoms correctly is essential to each person's health in this age of rampant disease.

Please, CDC rule makers, be ethical in your work and insist that all of the work we do in regard to STD and HIV education/prevention includes the clause "do no harm", use condoms and clean needles...and share with students and everyday folks where they can get these for low/no cost with the only question asked is do you know how to use this safely...take very good care of yourself.

I would appreciate hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Chris Hollinger, MA Pierce County AIDS Foundation

Sincerely,

Chris Hollinger